

## Knowledge Check – 3.1 United States Census 1850-1940 Introduction

1. Which statement best describes what a census is?

- A. An official count or enumeration of a population. Usually a census records various details about individuals.
- B. An official count of a specific group of people.
- C. An official count of immigrants as they assimilated into the population of a country.

The correct answer is A. The U.S. Federal census is an enumeration of the population. Throughout the decades the government has included various questions about individuals.

2. The United States Federal Census is the foundation of genealogical research. Which statement best describes the reasons why? Select all that apply.

- A. The census can act as a “snap-shot” of a family through time.
- B. They typically include everyone residing in the country.
- C. Identify date and place of residence.
- D. Identify clues for future research.

All the answers are correct. The U.S. census was taken every ten years and can act as a “snap-shot” of a family through time. Censuses are helpful because they typically include everyone residing in the country, contain clues for future research and include useful genealogical information.

3. What year was the first Federal census taken?

- A. 1782, at the end of the Revolutionary War
- B. 1787, after the ratification of the Constitution
- C. 1790, on the first Census Day
- D. 1800, the first year of the new century

The correct answer is C. the first census as mandated by the Constitution was taken on 2 August 1790, which was known as Census Day.

4. What is the most recent census available for public view?

- A. 1930
- B. 1940
- C. 1950
- D. All censuses are available

The correct answer is C. 1940 is the latest census available for public view.

5. The United States Federal census taken every 10 years.

True

False

The correct answer is True. The United States conducts a census every 10 years.

6. A census can be inaccurate.

True

False

The correct answer is True. A census is only as accurate as the information given to and recorded by the census taker.

7. Although they are interesting, census records have been around so long they aren't really very useful for genealogical research anymore.

True

False

The correct answer is False. Censuses records are extremely useful to genealogical research as they offer a "snap-shot" of a family through time.